

## **Minutes from Utilities & Sustainability Task Force July 20 Meeting**

### **Present:**

Jill Boone, San Mateo County RecyleWorks Programs Manager  
Bob Cormia, Sustainable Silicon Valley Volunteer  
Tacy Alferso, PG&E Public Affairs Representative  
Mark Randazzo, PG&E Principal Strategic Planner  
Terry Nagel, Vice Mayor of Burlingame  
Bill Dickenson, Belmont City Council  
Jerry Hall, San Mateo County Supervisor  
Deborah Gordon, Mayor of Woodside  
Mario Panoringan, CEO of Colma-Daly City Chamber of Commerce  
Sepi Richardson, Brisbane City Council  
Bruce Chamberlain, Senior Project Manager, Energy Solutions  
Nicole Sandkulla, Senior Water Resources Engineer, BAWSCA  
Mukesh Khattar, Director of Energy, Oracle  
Dianne Anderson, San Mateo County RecycleWorks  
Gina Blus, Facilitator

### **Not present:**

Barbara Pierce, Mayor of Redwood City  
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E Account Manager

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

All: Please review the first 2 pages of the state's Energy Action Plan II (on the website, <http://www.ccag.ca.gov/USTF.html>), to establish the context in which we are working. To see an example of an excellent regional energy plan, take a look at the Monterey Bay Regional Energy Plan (also on the website). Please note, however, that it reflects more than 10 years' commitment and investment in the area

Elected officials: If you have not yet sent Gina information about your community's existing energy activities, please do so by July 31.

Bruce: Please send Gina a pointer to existing Energy Watch programs and available water/energy data.

**DECIDED:** The new name of the group is the Utility Sustainability Task Force (USTF). The group will focus initially on fulfilling the charter established by CMAQ (now CMEC) in April 2006, i.e. "to consider the future energy needs of the County and to identify and recommend solutions that will address these needs in an environmentally, socially and fiscally responsible manner."

### **NOTES:**

#### **Charter**

The group agreed to use the name "utility" so it can address the broader set of issues, and describe this intention in its vision, but opted to start by tackling the energy-related tasks listed by CMEC in establishing the task force (see above). The intent is to ensure that

current levels of service can be maintained as efficiently and responsibly as possible, rather than reducing the level of services provided.

Because cleaning, transporting and pumping water uses substantial energy, water issues are likely to be addressed as part of the energy strategy. Climate change issues will likely arise under the concept of sustainability and the dictate from CMEC to recommend solutions that are environmentally and socially responsible.

The task force will not directly address transportation fuels because transportation generally is managed by CMEC and C/CAG. There may be topics on which it is appropriate to work together (e.g. use of compressed natural gas in buses). Similarly, the task force will not address land use issues because they are managed by C/CAG, but some topics may benefit from USTF's expertise or input (such as siting hydrogen fueling stations).

Approach.

For the first task, energy, the task force will start by establishing a baseline of usage, and then forecast the energy needed to meet future needs. Depending on the type and location of the projected needs (such as more growth in one part of the county than another), the plan may also include recommendations about energy distribution, transmission and production as well as usage.

The plan will outline specific actions for alternative scenarios, such as if the U.S. joins the Kyoto Protocol or the state passes new limits on greenhouse gas emissions. It will identify low-hanging fruit/quick wins, a mechanism or entity under which the county can act as one while respecting each city or town's individuality, and an education strategy for school children and adults.

We will review the energy plans from other regions to learn from their experiences.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 17, 2006, from 3-5 p.m., at the BAWSCA offices, 155 Bovet Road, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room, San Mateo CA 94402.

**Appendix – Highlights from various reports – all are on the website unless noted**

**State Energy Action Plan II (2005)**

Objectives

Energy is:

- adequate
- reliable
- reasonably-priced
- cost-effective
- environmentally sound

The priorities for achieving these objectives is via (in order) :

- conservation and energy efficiency
- renewables and distributed generation
- investment in clean fossil fuel generation
- improved transmission grid

### **Integrated Energy Policy Report** (executive summary only on the website)

Policies are intended to balance diverse stakeholder interests so as to:

- conserve resources
- protect the environment
- ensure energy reliability
- enhance the state's economy
- protect public health and safety

### **Monterey Bay Regional Energy Plan (2006)**

#### Objectives

- energy information and education
- energy conservation and efficiency
- clean distributed generation and renewable resource development
- transportation energy

### **San Diego Regional Energy Plan** (on website)

#### Objectives

- use an integrated approach
- ensure adequate supplies which are reliable and competitively priced
- ensure fair distribution of costs
- create a framework for planning
- encourage use of clean, safe, environmentally-benign sources
- plan and prepare for the potential transition from fossil fuels to new sources of energy

#### Goals (fall in the following categories)

- public policy
- electricity supply and infrastructure capacity
- electricity demand
- natural gas supply, infrastructure capacity and costs
- transportation energy, supply and demand

Note that the San Diego plan was produced by the San Diego Regional Energy Office (with a staff of 18) and based upon data collected in a San Diego Regional Energy Infrastructure Study. A San Diego Regional Energy Advisory Council has existed for over a decade.

## **Flex Your Power Campaign** (not on website)

### Objectives

short-term: prevent blackouts and break the dysfunctional energy marketplace

long-term: make conservation a way of life and lock in permanent energy efficiency

### Lessons learned

both a vision and specific calls to action are essential

a permanent and reliably-funded structure is needed to execute

must ask the public to get involved!

local governments are best-suited to lead, because they influence or provide water and energy, administer building codes, create and maintain infrastructure and oversee planning and public education in their communities